

PENNS PARK OCTAGONAL SCHOOLHOUSE
(Wrightstown Octagonal Schoolhouse,
Eight-Square Schoolhouse)
South corner of Rt. 232 & Swamp Road
Wrightstown
Bucks County
Pennsylvania

HABS NO. PA-5603

HABS
PA
9-WRIT,
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS AND
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Form 10-920
(June 1983)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICEHABS
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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

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| STATE Pennsylvania | COUNTY Bucks | TOWN OR VICINITY Wrightstown |
| HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) PENNS PARK OCTAGONAL SCHOOLHOUSE | | HABS NO. PA-5603 |
| SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Wrightstown Octagonal Schoolhouse, Eight-Square Schoolhouse | | |
| COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) South corner of State Road 232 & Swamp Road | | |
| DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1802 (National Register Nomination) | ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) | |
| SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL; INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Originally one of approximately ten octagonal schoolhouses built in Bucks County, this is the last one remaining. Built in 1802, it was one of the earliest of its kind, and predates the widespread use of this style as espoused by Orson Fowler in the 1850's.* | | |
| STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Octagonal | | |
| MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) local fieldstone, randomly laid, with large stone used as quoins | | |
| SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) octagonal, each side measuring eleven feet, one-story | | |
| EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE simply executed random stone construction with quoining, casement windows at each elevation | | |
| INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) simple interior, plaster walls, floor and ceiling boards | | |
| MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES earlier wooden roof replaced by metal roof and then the current asphalt shingles | | |
| PRESENT CONDITION AND USE fair interior condition, not in use | | |
| OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE *Predates even, the detailed plans for octagonal schoolhouse executed by Ithiel Town and A.J. Davis.. The school was built by neighborhood subscription. It is one of the oldest schoolhouses of any type in the region. | | |
| SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) National Register of Historic Places, Inventory-- Nomination Form, prepared by Kathryn Auerbach & Jeffrey Marshall, July 1983 | | |
| COMPILER, AFFILIATION C. Lavoie, HABS historian | | DATE March 1991 |